



Gypsy Leemaster

Edit my profile

News Feed

- Messages (1)
- Events
- Photos
- Friends (2)

- Applications
- Games
- Groups

Friends Online



Woodrow Prater



Rita Presley

Information

Birthday: December 4  
Hometown: Coal Station, VA

Friends  
26 Friends See All



Woodrow Prater



Rita Presley



Love Dotson



Porter Prater



Edward Collins



Buzz Ozbourne

Improved Privacy Controls  
Our new, simple privacy controls make it easier to share exactly how you want. Your privacy settings are still the same. Learn more.

What's on your mind?



Gypsy Leemaster Aunt Belle is missing! Mama, Granny and Grandpa Ball are frantic. What's happened to Belle Ball Prater? October, 1953



Gypsy Leemaster Only have a minute. My cousin Woodrow is moving in with my grandparents. Still no news on Aunt Belle. June, 1954



Gypsy Leemaster The first day of school. 7<sup>th</sup> grade looks like it should be good. The new teacher, Mr. Collins, sure is keen. September 1954



Woodrow Prater I think Mr. Collins class will be dandy, too! September, 1954



Gypsy Leemaster OMG! Everyone knew, including me. Except I blocked out the ugly truth. I hate him, I hate my father. How could he do this to me. I hate him for killing himself. I'm so mad; I'll get even with him though. September, 1954



Gypsy Leemaster OMG! Everyone knew, except me. Wow, that's a lot of hair. Uh . . . Look at me. I really hacked it off. Now what? September, 1954



Love Dotson Beauty, answer me. Please, answer me. What's going on? September, 1954



Porter Dotson Love, I can take a break. I'll go and check on Beauty. September, 1954



Gypsy Leemaster Okay, I'm not ugly or evil, just wounded. My hair is a mess. How am I going to face the kids at school? I've got to do something with my hair. September, 1954



Mary Lee OMG! Wow, Beauty, I mean Gypsy. I love your hair And to think I was the first to see it. I've got to get Mom to agree. I've got to get it. September, 1954



Gypsy Leemaster Go to Clint Aker's. He's the greatest! September, 1954



Gypsy Leemaster Hey, Woodrow. Thanks for sticking up for me. You're really keen. Sorry about the two weeks of confinement. September, 1954



Woodrow Prater. So we're good to go. We meet out front as soon as Aunt Love and Uncle Porter are asleep. September, 1954.

Events See All

What are you planning?

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Constantine's Sheet Music



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Call ahead to make your appointment to get the hottest style around.  
[www.vbarbershop.com](http://www.vbarbershop.com)



The American Comedy Institute is New York's Comedy School.  
For training in comedy writing and performing, it is, according to the New York Times, "The very best this wonderful city has to offer."  
<http://comedyinstitute.com/>





**Gypsy Leemaster** Blind Benny was a friend of my mom and dad. I never knew. And now we can help him. Today was so special, I'd relive it.  
October, 1954



**Woodrow Prater** Thanks for going. It was great!  
October, 1954



**Gypsy Leemaster** Can you believe it? I'm going to give my first recital. I don't have much time to get things right. I'm so excited. October, 1954



**Woodrow Prater** I'll be there. October, 1954



**Rita Presley** Me too! I bet you're really good.  
October, 1954



**Gypsy Leemaster** Thanks. Granny's waiting.  
Time for my lesson. October, 1954



**Gypsy Leemaster** I AM MYSELF. No more hiding.  
But where's Aunt Belle? October, 1954.



I chose to create a Facebook page for Ruth White's *Belle Prater's Boy* because the book moved me. The story is engaging, the writing is of high quality, and the theme is resonant. *Belle Prater's Boy* is the best young adult literature I have read this year. My students will enjoy it too. It provides an insight into another culture for us, as we live in New England. Students can identify with Gypsy Leemaster, a girl from 1950s rural Virginia, despite her differences with twenty-first century, New Hampshire teens.

My students are "digital natives" having grown up with digital technology. Unfortunately, our classrooms are behind the times in supporting and furthering their use of technology. For most students, this kind of activity, mimicking a web page, is an unconventional assignment. Appealing to their interest in technology will surely hook some of them. Generally speaking, they spend a lot of their free time on social networking sites. With this project, they can share what they learned in a relevant and familiar format.

There are many limiting factors with this project. Creating this product is time intensive! While it's a fun way to engage students and conclude a unit, it demands a major time commitment. If computers are not readily available, progress will be irregular. In a public school setting, there is a wide range of ability to use computers; some students will be unfamiliar with the format and, therefore, will need more support and time to complete it. Some parts of the project may be completed as homework, but most of it will be completed in school. Some parents may object to the project format, so up front communication with home will help explain and validate this activity.

Despite the drawbacks, this project has many benefits. Students use technology to show what they've learned. This project may be completed individually, in pairs, or in small groups. It appeals to many learning styles. The product connects to popular trend, and students will find it engaging and motivating.

Teachers strive to balance what is fun and engaging with the prescribed activities and skills. Unless there is a template and a model for the Facebook page, this project would take too much time. It's important to include meaningful activities, but other formats might be more practical.

This project might work if students worked in mixed ability pairs, or it might be a good extension activity. It could work if students practiced making a Facebook page for a character from a class read-aloud before pursuing one on their own. Working from a template would make the layout more efficient. The project might also work in conjunction with the technology department. All in all, it has potential and should be carefully crafted for inclusion in the curriculum.